(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major demands made by the Coffee growers relate revision of Minimum Release Price, waiver of export duty, more representation to growers in the Board, a grower member should be the Chairman of the Coffee Board payment of first instalment equal to Minimum Release Price to growers.

Decision regarding revision of Minimum Release Price is expected to be taken soon. While imposing export duty it is ensured that the growers' remunerative return and exporters' profit margin is kept intact and only half of the windfal gain beyond a base price so arrived is charged as the export duty.

The composition of the Board was reviewed as recently as in August, 1984 to provide more balanced representation. Chairman, Coffee Board has to be a Government official with administrative experience who could take an overall view on an issue keeping in mind the various interests involved in coffee industry. Besides he acts as the Chief Executive.

The first instalment of payment to growers being equal to the Minimum Release Price may not be in the interest of coffee growers because the Board will have to arrange for payment through overdrafts at a higher rate of interest which will reduce the net payments to the growers considerably.

1306. [*Transferred to the 14th August, 1986*].

Conversion of loan given to Karnataka from short term to medium term loans

1307. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government have urged the Central Government to convert the short-term loans which were made available to the State Government under drought relief assistance, into medium-term loans;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) No request has been received from the Government of Karnataka for conversion of short term loans into medium term loans for drought relief.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Request for Ban on import of raw silk by Exporters

1308. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the silk industry in the South particularly in Karnataka State has been severely affected due to imports of raw silk exporters under the replenishment scheme and advance licencing scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government of Karnataka has urged the Central Government to put a ban on import of silk by exporters under replenishment of export production and advance licencing scheme; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto and what further efforts Government are making to save the silk industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) Government of Karnataka has represented for imposition of ban on import of raw silk. However, in view of fact that ALS|REP schemes are export promotion schemes of Government of India and import of silk under these schemes is allowed only for or against exports of silk items it has not been considered feasible to ban import under these schemes. The fact that silk production in the country has been steadily increasing and prices of silk in the local market continue to rule at remunerative levels reveals that import of raw silk under these schemes does not have an adverse effect on domestic production.

Raids conducted by the Income Tax Department in Bombay

1309. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of companies and premises of Raheja group of companies were raided by the Income-tax Departmtnt, Bombay, recently;

(b) if so, what are the details theeof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Directors of the above group of companies are trying to influence the officials of the Income-tax Department; if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Activities of foreign intelligence agencies along Tripura-Bangladesh border

1310. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

SHRI K. MOHANAN:

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken up the matter regarding increasing activities of CIA and other foreign intelligence agencies like British Special Air Services along the Tripura-Bangladeh border with the Bangladesh President during his recent visit to this country;

(b) whether Government have also taken up this matter with the US Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Indianisation of foreign companies

1311. SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH:

PROF. N. M. KAMBLE:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria to judge Indianisation of foreign companies;

(b) in case there is no change in the absolute control over the affairs of the ex-FERA companies by the Principal Companies abroad, whether such a company